Divisions under South-West Railway Zone

1598. SHRI K. RAHMN KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the railway divisions under the South-West Railway Zone at Bangalore;

(b) whether the Zone has started functioning, if so, whether orders bifurcating the divisions have been issued; and

(c) how much time it will take for the Zone to become fully functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) The detailed territorial jurisdiction of the South-Western Zone has not yet been finalised. The inaugural function for the South-Western Railway Zone at Bangalore was held on 1.11.96.

(c) Setting up of zones is expected to be completed in about sixty months.

Rescheduling the Timing of Hirakud Express

1599. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the agitation (Rail Roko) in the Western part of Orissa demanding rescheduling the timing of Hirakud Express;

(b) whether Government are proposing to change the timing; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir. There was a Rail Roko agitation on 17.11.96 at Sambalpur Railway station demanding restoration of earlier timings of departure from Sambalpur and arrival at Nizamuddin of Train No. 8301/8302 Sambalpur-Nizamuddin Hirakud Express.

(b) and (c) Revision of timings of Hirakud Express is under examination of the Railway Administration and action as found feasible and justified will be taken.

Number of Students in Primary Schools

1600. SHRI MD. SALIM:
SHRI E. BALANANDAN:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the average number of students in a primary school at present;

(b) whether Government have any plan to increase the number of students in primary schools;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number of additional class-rooms needed to be constructed to reach the target of full literacy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVEOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) The average number of students in a primary school varies considerably between States and among urban and rural areas. According to the available information, there were 10.97 crore children enrolled in 5.90 lakh primary schools in the country in 1995-96.

(b) to (d) The promotion and expension of primary education is mainly the responsibility of State Governments. Their Annual Plans include proposals for increasing enrolment in primary schools and construction of additional classrooms.

Machinery to check arbitrary functioning of Public Schools

1601. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minsiter of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any machinery to control the Public Schools and to redress the grievances of the parent as these schools are functioning arbitrarily;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government in this regard; and

(e) if so, by when such a machinery is likely to be set-up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (e) All Public Schools/ Privately managed English Medium Schools come under the jurisdiction of respective State Education Acts as well as Affiliation Bye-laws of the respective Board to which these schools are affiliated. All these schools are subject to periodic inspections by Education Departments of respective State Government and Affiliation Boards. Complaints/grievances against the defaulting schools an be dealt with as per the provisions contained in the Regulations framed under the applicable State Education Act & Affiliation Bye-laws of the Board.

Outstanding dues of State Governments against Railways

1602. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Ministry owes an outstanding dues to the tune of Rs. 62,67,81,567 till October 1996, to the State of Maharashtra on deployment of State Police Force on Central Railway, South-Central Railway and South-Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, the period from which the dues have accummulated and the reasons for delay in payment by the Railways;

(c) the purpose for which the services of the State Police Force is required by Railways while RPF is already there;

(d) whether similar dues of other States are also pending, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when the arrears of the States, Particularly the State Government of Maharashtra, would be paid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) the total outstanding dues payable to State of Maharashtra till October, 1996 on account of deployment of GRP on Central Railway, South-Central Railway and South-Eastern Railway is Rs. 1.74 Crore (approx). However, this amount does not include claims Rs. 22.57 crore (approx.) rejected by Central Railway due to unilateral creation of posts of GRP personnel by the State Govt. without the approval of Railway Administration. The outstanding dues of Rs. 1.74 crore are on account of current bills.

The reasons attributed to delay in payment are as under:—

(i) Non-submission of A.G's certificates by the State Govt.

(ii) Non-availability of funds.

(iii) Unilateral creation of posts of GRP personnel by the State Govt. without the approval of Railway Administration.

(c) There are two separate agencies responsible for the security on Railway's viz. (i) the Government Railway Police and (ii) the Railway Protection Force.

Policing is a State subject and hence maintenance of law and order and control of crime on Railway premises including running trains is the responsibility of the State Governments concerned, which they discharge through their Government Railway Police. The Ministry of Railways bear 50% of the expenditure on GRP, but have no control over the functioning of the GRP. However, the Railways on their part maintain close coordination with the GRP especially regarding crime control activities through frequent coordination meetings.

RPF is primarily entrusted with the security and protection of railway property including goods entrusted to the railway for carriage. Hence, RPF cannot replace the duties and functions performed by the State Police through the Govt. Railway Police.

(d) The details of outstanding dues payable to other States on this account is enclosed as Statement (*see* below)

(e) All clearly admissible bills will be cleared within the current financial year i.e. 1996-97 subject to the availability of funds.